



*For immediate release*

## IDOC Pulls in Donations for Special Olympics

Indianapolis, IN (September 5, 2012) – On Saturday, August 25, more than 300 Indiana Department of Correction (IDOC) staff members, representing 17 teams, participated in the 2012 FedEx Plane Pull Challenge at the former Indianapolis International Airport.



All 17 IDOC teams pose in front of the FedEx plane at the 2012 FedEx Plane Pull Challenge

Through various fundraisers and donations, the IDOC raised over \$30,000 for Special Olympics Indiana. While every IDOC team put forth a valiant effort to pull the 164,000 pound FedEx Boeing 757 across the tarmac, Putnamville Correctional Facility's team, The Dark Knight Rises, not only won the Public Safety category but also had the fastest time overall, pulling the plane 12 feet in just 6.026 seconds.

The Indiana Department of Correction has been a longtime supporter of Special Olympics and the FedEx Plane Pull Challenge. IDOC Commissioner Bruce Lemmon expressed his gratitude to staff who participated. "It is inspiring to see so many of our staff taking the day off to come out and support a great cause and participate in this event. The Department is proud of our staff and their continued support for Special Olympics Indiana is a testament to their willingness to give back to the community."

Among the teams that participated from the Department were: the IDOC Special Emergency Response Team, Central Office, Parole Division, Reception Diagnostic Center, Indiana State Prison, Camp Summit, Correctional Industrial Facility, Pendleton Juvenile, Rockville, Plainfield, Logansport Juvenile, Madison, Madison Juvenile, Miami, Wabash Valley, Putnamville, Westville, Pendleton, Edinburgh, and New Castle Correctional Facilities. Donations for Special Olympics also came from Henryville, Branchville, and Chain 'O Lakes Correctional Facilities.

## **Plane Pull History**

Trademarked as a fundraising event unique to Special Olympics programs throughout the United States, the FedEx Plane Pull® Challenge got its start in Indiana in 2002 through the inspiration of FedEx Senior Ramp Tower Controller and Special Olympics Indiana volunteer Eric Garrett. After hearing of Special Olympics Virginia's success with its own Plane Pull event, Garrett introduced the idea to Special Olympics Indiana. The Indiana Plane Pull grew from about 15 teams in 2002 to more than 64 in 2011.

## **About Special Olympics Indiana**

Special Olympics Indiana is a not-for-profit organization that provides year-round sports training and athletic competition in over 20 Olympic-type sports for children and adults with intellectual disabilities, reaching more than 11,000 athletes across Indiana. The organization receives no federal or state appropriated funds, is not a United Way agency and relies entirely on corporate, civic and individual donations. For more information about Special Olympics Indiana, call (317) 328-2000 or visit <http://www.soindiana.org>.

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